

Preliminary Amendment filed January 9, 2007

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REMARKS

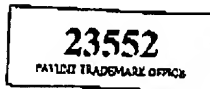
The above preliminary amendment places the claims in the same form as in the Substitute Specification and Marked-Up Copy submitted with the filing of the application. Please consider the changes made to the Specification in the Substitute Specification and Marked Up copy. Also, please accept the Substitute Specification and the Marked-Up copy in which no substantive changes were made to change the scope of the patent. The above preliminary amendment was made to to cancel claims 1-22, to add new claims 23-47, and to insert an appropriate abstract paragraph as required in US practice.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Gregory A. Sebald (Reg. No. 33,280), at (612) 336-4728.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 1/9/07By Gregory A. Sebald
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GAS/ncb